

THE KINDS OF POETRY AND OTHER ESSAYS, by John Erskine. New York: Duffield and Company. 1920. 186 pages. (\$1.50).

It is good for us to be told over and over that "meter and rhyme are but accompaniments of poetry, and not poetry itself, which is an effect of beauty, never to be confounded with rhetorical inventions, and which is produced by different races in different ways, according to their tastes, and in different ways by the same race at different times."

Professor Erskine thinks that what is called "the new poetry" is the product of much novel reading, that the methods of prose realism have been transferred to verse, and not that it is the outgrowth of contemporary French verse, as Miss Amy Lowell would have us believe. But he acknowledges the debt we owe Miss Lowell for reminding poets that "the natural phrase is a sacred thing, not to be sacrificed to exigencies of the line or the rhyme."

The author's recollections of the teaching of Professor George E. Woodberry twenty-five years ago (p. 83) offer a happy illustration of the service which philosophy renders in the interpretation of poetry. Professor Erskine is strong in his denial of the De Quincey categories of "the literature of knowledge and the literature of power," and points out the error in excluding the more intellectual kinds of writing from our definition of poetry.

The four essays in this volume, all stimulating and sound, are entitled, "The Kinds of Poetry," "The Teaching of Poetry," "The New Poetry," and "Scholarship and Poetry."

C. T. L.

ON AMERICAN BOOKS, edited by Francis Hackett. New York: B. W. Huebsch, Inc. 1920. 60 pages. (50 cents).

A valuable group of papers, here conveniently gathered in pamphlet form, for the teacher of English literature who would keep in touch with contemporary developments. This symposium was first published as an American supplement to the *London Nation*, in April, 1920. In its present form, the booklet can be read through in less than two hours.

"American Criticism Today" is contributed by J. E. Spingarn; "Recent American Poetry" by Padraic Colum; "The Literary Capital of the United States," by Henry L. Mencken; "Philosophy in America" by Morris R. Cohen; and "The American Novel" by Francis Hackett.

C. T. L.

BIOLOGY FOR HIGH SCHOOLS, by W. M. Smallwood, Ida L. Reveley, and Guy A. Bailey. Boston: Allyn and Bacon. 1920. 550 pages. (\$1.40).

This is an excellent book in many ways. It is planned on the assumption that the sub-

ject is to be taught in the laboratory; instructions are incorporated in the text. The subject matter is largely explanatory of what the student observes in the laboratory study. A knowledge of plants and animals is arrived at through the study of representative specimens of the several plant and animal kingdoms and families. The book begins with definitions of the most frequently used biological terms. All technical matter is discussed in very simple language, while the fund of information conveyed is ample and thorough. No less than 533 well-chosen illustrations are given. The treatment of human biology is in keeping with the other parts of the book.

The most notable defect is the scant discussion of heredity.

G. W. C. JR.

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HARRISONBURG NORMAL SCHOOL GIRLS

The 326 students enrolled here for the first quarter come from eight states, Virginia, North Carolina, Georgia, West Virginia, Maryland, Pennsylvania, New York, and Ohio. Of the 100 counties in Virginia, 70 of them are represented by students. Rockingham county, in which Harrisonburg is situated, naturally has the largest county enrolment, 23. Other counties well represented include Augusta with 13; Albemarle, 12; Rockbridge, 10; Fairfax, 9; Loudoun, 8; Shenandoah, 7. From Harrisonburg are enrolled 14 students.

The proportion of students from the southeastern section of the state is always large. Students registered from Tidewater cities are as follows: Norfolk, 13; Portsmouth, 11; Richmond, 10; Newport News, 6; Suffolk, 2.

In the days following the opening of the twelfth session, the usual receptions and entertainments have taken place.

How They Are Received All students, new and old, were entertained by the faculty Friday evening, September 24, at Hill Crest, the President's home. Students in groups of fifty or sixty were received at half-hour intervals, and a delicious buffet luncheon was served.

An informal reception tendered new students by the Y. W. C. A. was given the evening of Friday, October 1. Every new

girl was escorted by an old girl to the Y. W. social rooms and the fun commenced with a grand march in which everyone joined.

Strips of paper of various colors were distributed one to each girl, and then all the girls who had paper of the same color formed in groups and each group planned a charade. After the charades were acted, Ella Holloran gave a violin solo with Mary Stephens accompanying.

This proved to be a delightful affair, and there were many evidences that the new girls were adjusting themselves to their new home, putting away all thoughts of homesickness.

Each class has undertaken at least one entertainment: the Degree class was in charge of a Hallowe'en affair in the Gym the evening of October 30; the Postgraduate class arranged a Tacky Party which moved one of our reporters to lyric eloquence; the Seniors had a "Hullabaloo" on October 22; and the Juniors presented a minstrel show November 13.

That Tacky Party

Did you go to the gym last Saturday night? Well, you surely missed a funny sight Jack Spratt entertained with Mrs. Spratt, his wife—

Never had such a swell time in my life! Folks started coming soon as they could— Old and young, and they all "looked good." Tacky Town sure dressed up *some*, And that nigger band—it made things hum! The village vamp came and the shop girl too; And the Faculty—

Oh, sakes alive, I thought you knew! They were fussy and frivolous as could be, And paint and powder—well, goodness me! They ate peanuts and ice cream cones galore, Ham sandwiches and then some more. They turned out in real style, you bet, And believe me, they'd been hopping 'round yet

But the colored fiddlers left about ten— After promising to come again. Now wasn't that a treat for a nickel and a dime?

And didn't we have some jazz-bo time? The Degrees surely know how to do things right

When they give a Tacky Party on a Saturday night.

E. W.

And what a Hullabaloo it was! Which was enjoyed most, the "ladies and gentlemen of color", the bareback dancer, the chorus girls, the clowns, the tight-rope walkers, or the "tiny lady singers"? It would be hard to choose among them, for they all brought forth roars of laughter.

First to be announced by the ringmaster were the negro minstrels, who entertained with jokes and songs. Next came the five tiny lady singers, who sang "Five Jolly Consumptives" and other popular songs. The songs and dances of the chorus girls were applauded by everyone.

After these features of the program the side shows were opened, and peanuts, ice cream, and lemonade were sold.

The evening of the Hullabaloo, members of the faculty partook of an out-of-doors orchard supper when they enjoyed the hospitality of Dr. Registrar and Mrs. J. W. Wayland at their home just south of the Normal School. There was a big brush heap to toast bread and roast "wienies" by, and there was Dr. Converse to tell some incredible yarns and lead some "corn-field singing." And he added a few limericks for good measure.

The Junior Minstrel the night of November 13, was a remarkable production in several respects. For one thing the singing, both solos and choruses, was tuneful and was as "with one accord;" for another thing, the Minstrel was full of wit—without any jokes on the faculty! Indeed, some members were probably shocked by the novelty of the affair.

Maude Evans, business manager of the class, was interlocutor, and the end men were Edna Draper, Katherine Kemp, Etheleen Jones, and Alese Charles. The class has met with a real success in its first public venture, and has in Edna Draper an actress who can be relied on to "get things across."

How Their
Registrar
Misbehaved

How They
Have Fun, at
the Same
Time Mak-
ing Money

Excursions were made to nearby points of interest each Saturday while the weather was good. Miss Brinton accompanied a large group of **Trips They** students to Massanetta Cave, **Take** near Keezletown; while under Mr. Dingleline's guidance many to whom the mountains were a novelty went to the top of Massanutten Peak. The Presbyterian church entertained members of that congregation here by taking them on a picnic to Rawley Springs. And there have been several little excursions to Ashby's Monument, just a few miles south of the school.

The kindergarten, under the direction of Miss Mary Louise Seeger, with the assistance of Coralease Bottom, **Things They** Elizabeth Wimbisch, Gladys **Learn, While** Gwynn, and Elise Loewner, **Not Seeming** occupied the rostrum at assembly the morning of November 15. The children sang songs, heard stories, and played games, and the program was designed to show the entire school how the little children are daily cared for in the training school. Other programs have been arranged, when each grade successively will give an entertainment.

Musical programs at assembly which have taken either the full period or part time have included violin solos by **Music** Miss Elizabeth Trappe, in- **They Hear** structor in violin music; vocal solos by Mrs. D. N. Hawkins, an instructor in vocal music; chorus singing by the Glee Club with Miss Edna Shaeffer as accompanist; "In Flanders Fields", a solo sung by Mrs. A. K. Fletcher on Armistice Day; vocal solos by Mary Phillips and instrumental solos by Rosa P. Heidelberg, Ella Holloran, Sarah Upp, and Mary Carolyn Harris.

Speakers who addressed students in assembly since the opening of the fall term have included the following: **Speakers** Rev. Dr. H. M. Canter, of **They Hear** the local Methodist church; Rev. Dr. B. F. Wilson, of the Presbyterian church; Rev. V. H. Persons, of the Baptist church; Rev. Dr. H. W. Battle, of Charlottesville; G. F. Fannin, a representative of the Community Chautauqua, Inc.;

Senator John Paul, of Rockingham County, who spoke on "Woman's New Obligation"; Mrs. Roy Smith, of Japan, who told her experience as a missionary in that land and gave some idea of the work of the Y. W. C. A. there; and Miss Grace Brinton, head of our home economics department, whose talk on "Making Effective the Training in Home Economics," is published in this issue of *The Virginia Teacher*.

Other assembly periods have been made interesting by a series of programs presented by the "Y. W.", when a play **Organizations** was given to represent the Y's **They** influence; by Student Govern- **Support** ment, when Sallie Browne, president, arranged for talks by President Duke and Dr. Wayland; by the Athletic Association, when June Steele presented the revised constitution for adoption and made a plea for 100 per cent. membership in the Athletic Association.

The Devereux Players will be in Harrisonburg this winter. They will appear in Shakespearean and other plays **Plays** at the State Normal School, **They See** December 10 and 11. Their high reputation and the impression they made on previous visits here insure for them an appreciative reception.

"The Four Star Course" appearing in Harrisonburg at the New Virginia Theatre is under the joint auspices of the Theatre and the State **Entertain-** Normal School. An enter- **ments They** tainment fund set aside by the **Are Treat-** school makes it possible for the **ed To** school to join with the management of the theatre in bringing to Harrisonburg high grade attractions. This season's program was announced as follows: Oct. 15, Grand Opera Concert Quartet; Nov. 19, Harpvocal Ensemble; Feb. 4, The Bostonia Sextet; Feb. 14, Theo Karle.

The first number was a most successful effort by high-class musicians to present a superior kind of music, as if to a popular audience. The first part consisted of solos and part singing. The second part of the program was a rendition in costume of the second act and a few later parts of the opera, *Martha*.

The State Normal School at Harrisonburg always welcomes opportunities to be of assistance in other communities of the state working for the public good, for better schools, for community spirit, for better legislation, and so on. During recent weeks members of the faculty have taken part in public meetings and have addressed teachers' institutes as follows:

President S. P. Duke, at Woodstock, on the "School Amendments", and near Greenville before the Tuesday Club of Augusta county on "Improvement in Rural Schools"; Dr. W. J. Gifford, at Big Stone Gap for a teachers' institute, at Manassas and in Shenandoah county for the school amendments; Dr. J. W. Wayland, at Botetourt county teachers' meeting; Dr. Henry A. Converse, at Edinburg, on the school amendments; Miss Katherine M. Anthony and Miss Mary Louise Seeger, at Woodstock for a county teachers' institute; Miss Grace Brinton, at Front Royal to serve as a judge of home economics exhibits; and Miss Frances I. Mackey, in Rockbridge county, to judge manual arts exhibits.

The training school facilities at Pleasant Hill have recently been extended by the installation of complete equipment for instruction in sewing and cooking classes. This school offers students superior opportunities for teaching and observing in a typical Virginia Rural Junior High School.

Like opportunities in a city system including kindergarten, primary and grammar grades, and junior high school, are of course offered also, in the city training school of Harrisonburg.

The Home Economics Club held its first regular meeting Tuesday, November 9. The enrolment of 125 is the largest membership the club has ever enjoyed. Its new officers are Mary Brown, president; Dorothy Fosque, vice-president; Anna Cameron, secretary; Esther Evans, treasurer; Christine Gladstone, sergeant-at-arms.

After a social hour of dancing and chatting down in the Gym, with maple-nut ice cream as the crowning feature, the club adjourned to the Y. W. auditorium, where a business meeting was held.

The meeting concluded with talks by members of the faculty in the home economics department. Miss Brinton outlined the history of the home economics movement; Miss Wilson told of some important women interested in the work; and Mrs. Moody discussed some of the larger and leading home economics schools of the county.

XIII

HERE AND THERE AMONG ALUMNAE

Ella May Lane is teaching history and economics in the high school at Warm Springs. She is busy but she does not forget her old friends. Linda Berrey and Lois Henderson are working in Nelson County in the vicinity of Tye River, where Beulah Crigler is principal. These three frequently unite their leisures in making a pleasant week-end. Louise Walker and Bess Lay are "way down south in Dixie." Both are students in Peabody College for Teachers. They report themselves as happy and one of their professors reports them as doing fine work. We are not surprised.

May Davis is making a mark teaching at Shenandoah. Marion Nesbitt, at South Boston, is keeping up her record for efficient work and fine spirit. Music and athletics, as well as other good things, are being enhanced by her touch. Catherine Harrison is enthusiastic over her situation at Andrew Chapel, Fairfax County. She is pleased with her building, her assistant, her children, and her living conditions. Incidentally, she is pleased also with the \$15 first prize which her school captured at the county fair. Bessie Parrish is also teaching in Fairfax, and sends an interesting report from Falls Church. The Gatling sisters, Marceline, Margie, and Lucy, are all teaching in the busy city of Norfolk. Says Lucy, in a recent letter: "May Rowbotham is with us again this year, and we can have 'regular old-time meet-in's' with so many Harrisonburg girls in our